



**USAID**  
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## KENYA

### DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT

Kenya has achieved many democratic milestones. Among them was the inclusive process that birthed the new constitution in 2010 and the creation of 47 new county governments, effectively creating a new devolved system of political power.

USAID's development strategy is centered on the implementation of devolution, a long and challenging process at the core of Kenya's constitutional reform agenda. If done right, devolution can put the country on a path towards more inclusive, transparent and accountable governance.

#### DEVOLUTION AND SUPPORT TO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

USAID supports county governments as they strive to operate with greater transparency, accountability and inclusivity, as well as provide better public services to residents. At the national level, USAID partners with ministries and Parliament to strengthen national policies and advance and guide the devolution process. We also work with three intergovernmental agencies and various sector working groups to enhance communication and coordination between the national and county governments.

The Agile and Harmonized Assistance for Devolved Institutions (AHADI) activity uses training, on-the-job mentoring, and experiential learning at all levels – national, county, sub-county, and civil society – to advance the work of government and citizens. We also partner with the Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Bank and other donors to support devolution, thereby ensuring that national and county governments have the technical, financial and functional capacity needed for an effective transition to devolved governance.

PHOTO: FAITH NJOKI / USAID

## SUPPORTING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Kenya's 2017 election was a critical one for the country. To support credible, transparent and peaceful elections, USAID and other international development partners provided training and expert assistance to support key institutions involved in preparing for the election, including the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the Judiciary, the Political Parties Dispute Tribunal, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, as well as local civil society organizations. Support was focused on administering elections, providing election observation, conducting voter registration and education to expand the participation of women, youth, and vulnerable populations, and reduce the likelihood of elections-related conflict.

## EMPOWERING CITIZENS

USAID programs strengthen capacity for civil engagement, and increase the participation and representation of youth, women and marginalized groups in governance processes. This includes strengthening of conflict mitigation mechanisms at the county level and enhancing citizen access to government, information and services.

AHADI helps citizens to engage effectively in the county governance process by integrating citizen engagement throughout the public expenditure management process. Peaceful Empowerment in Arid Lands (PEARL) uses a people-to-people approach to conflict resolution, bringing communities together to discuss natural resource-related drivers of conflict, address grievances, identify shared interests and find alternatives to violence. Yetu (meaning "ours" in Kiswahili) is a public private partnership that promotes more sustainable civil society and civic engagement through local philanthropy.

## COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

To support the Government of Kenya, USAID is expanding conflict mitigation and countering violent extremism activities to address the increasing insecurity and growing influence of Al-Shabaab. The Strengthening Community Resilience Against Violent Extremism (SCORE) activity improves the ability of CSOs along the Kenyan coast to address the drivers of conflict and violent extremism in their communities. The Kenya NiWajibu Wetu (NIWETU) activity reduces violent extremism among at-risk individuals and communities in Kenya. NIWETU works in Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Nairobi and Wajir counties.

### BUDGET (FY 2017)

\$17 million

### KEY GOVERNMENT OF KENYA PARTNERS

- Council of Governors
- County Assemblies Forum
- Devolution Sector Working Group
- Independent electoral and Boundaries Commission
- Judiciary
- Ministry of Devolution and Planning
- National Counter Terrorism Center
- National Treasury
- Parliament (National Assembly and Senate)

### ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT (FY 2017)

- Over 43,000 national and county government officials trained, mentored and provided hands on technical assistance on topics ranging from expenditure management to revenue generation
- USAID assistance helped the Ministry of Devolution and Planning and the Kenya Law Reform Commission launch 51 county model laws
- Over 30 million people reached with civic and voter education resulting in increased voter registration and turn out for the election

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